



Saguaro National Park News Release

13-26

For Immediate Release

May 1, 2013

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Saguaro National Park Offers Public Programs in May

Saguaro National Park is offering a variety of hikes and talks this spring that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. This listing is also available on the park's website, www.nps.gov/sagu, or visit us on Facebook. Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change; call the visitor centers for updates or reservations.

Programs at Tucson Mountain District (West, 2700 N. Kinney Road):

May 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 31 10:45 a.m. **The Plants Tell All** *Hike: Up to 1½ hours and 1½ miles*
No lip-syncing here. The real deal, straight from the plants, as told by a biologist and naturalist. Find out what lichens like, why buckwheats turn red, where bagworms hang out, and what makes the saguaro happy. Questions are welcome on this informal tour to explore what is out there. Talk may be indoors due to heat. Call to confirm.

May 6, 13, 20 1:15 p.m. **Puma: Predator, Prey, and Peril** *Talk: 45 minutes*
Often called puma, cougar, or mountain lion, discover the true nature of this secretive, nocturnal and elusive predator. Explore the threats that this creature faces as it struggles to survive within an ever shrinking habitat. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 7, 14, 21, 28 3:15 p.m. **Whales in the Desert** *Talk: 45 minutes*
Learn about the unique connection between whales and the Sonoran Desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 10:45 a.m. **Petroglyphs: Communications Etched In Stone** *Talk: 30 minutes*
The Hohokam people carved and pecked symbols into stone, leaving meanings still subject to speculation centuries later. What is the current thinking about the meanings of petroglyphs, and what might have indigenous people been communicating? *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 2:15 p.m. **Lizards: Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool** *Talk: 30 minutes*
Frequently overlooked, discover how these small denizens of the desert become a critical component of our desert community. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 19, 23, 26, 30 9:45 a.m. **Neighborhood Characters** *Walk: 40 minutes, 100 yards*
An easy morning walk in the Cactus Garden will bring visitors face to thorns with plants that remind them of people they know, including "Bill Gates". *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 1:15 p.m. **Against All Odds** *Talk: 30 minutes*
A saguaro might produce 40 million seeds in its lifetime, but only one or two seedlings will survive into maturity. Discover how the "deck is stacked" against their survival and what conditions are needed for growth into the majestic icon of the desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 20, 25, 27 11:45 a.m. **Snakes: The Slither Factor** *Talk: 40 minutes*
All that slithers is not venomous; and snakes of all kinds play important roles in desert ecology, including controlling the rodent population. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 14, 22, 29 2:15 p.m. **Homesteading Adventures in the Desert** *Talk: 30 min.*
Enjoy the fascinating oral history surrounding Mexican American Homesteaders' adventures around Saguaro National Park communities. *Wheelchair accessible.*

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Programs offered at the Rincon Mountain District (East, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail):

May 4 10:00 a.m. Cactus Caravan Auto Tour

Begin your exploration of the Cactus Forest Drive with a park ranger and become familiar with some of the common cacti. A great introduction to the park! Wheelchair accessible.

May 5, 11, 12, 18 3:00 p.m. The Changing Cactus Forest Presentation

Join us in the visitor center auditorium to see the changes that have come to the Cactus Forest in the 80 years of Saguaro National Park and to think about what the next 80 years will look like. Wheelchair accessible.

May 4, 19, 26 3:00 p.m. Meet the Hohokam Presentation

Come meet the early inhabitants of Saguaro National Park in this auditorium presentation. Discover what their life was like here. What did these people use for food, shelter, clothing? Wheelchair accessible.

May 7, 14, 21 10:00 a.m. A Taste of the Desert Garden Walk

Stroll through the Cactus Garden just outside the visitor center to explore the many ways humans use desert plants for food, clothing, shelter and medicine. Wheelchair accessible.

May 9 11:00 a.m. Secrets of Owls and Night Birds

Join desert naturalist and author Pinau Merlin in the visitor center auditorium to discover the world of these night hunters as they search the dark skies for prey. Learn what adaptive strategies Night Hawks, Poor Wills and nocturnal owls use to survive in the night world. Wheelchair accessible.

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (TMD, west)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (RMD, east)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org

www.rinconinstitute.org

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